



Notes from Underground

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Study Guide



Summary

Characters

Literary Devices

Quotes

Quick Quizzes

Essays

Further



Characters
Zverkov

Zverkov is a prime example of the kind of man the Underground Man hates most, "*l'homme de la nature et de la vérité*." Zverkov is an active and decisive man, preferring

Privacy - Terms

pursue concrete goals rather than contemplate the value of those goals in modern society. He has been very successful, having advanced far in his career, seduced numerous women, and gained the admiration of his friends and acquaintances. In school, the Underground Man hated Zverkov for his stupidity and boastfulness, and resented him for his wealth, good looks, and popularity. The Underground Man explains that Zverkov was popular because he was “favored with the gifts of nature”—his social success was rather Darwinian. By the 1840s, Zverkov is much the same as he was in school, except a little fatter, probably because of his hearty enjoyment of food along with wine and women. The Underground Man feels that Zverkov treats him with condescension. The Underground Man is right, but Zverkov at least attempts to treat him politely. We see Zverkov, as we see all of the other characters in the novel, only through the eyes of the Underground Man. It is difficult, therefore, to get an objective view of Zverkov's real personality. The Underground Man describes Zverkov as a coarse, mincing, piggish idiot, but we can also see that Zverkov is amiable and generous with his friends. His rudeness to the Underground Man can be explained at least partially by the Underground Man's aggressive behavior.

Previous section

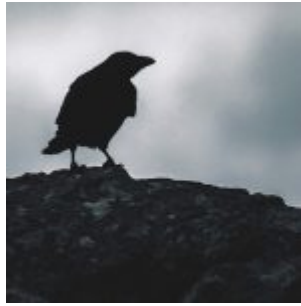
Liza





Test your knowledge

Take the **Analysis of Major Characters** Quick Quiz



Take a study break

QUIZ: Is This a Taylor Swift Lyric or a Quote by Edgar Allan Poe?



Take a study break

The 7 Most Embarrassing Proposals in Literature

PLUS

Notes

[See All Notes](#)

Add Note with SparkNotes PLUS

Default Note

Add your thoughts right here!

Popular pages: *Notes from Underground*



Character List

CHARACTERS



Important Quotations Explained

QUOTES



Themes

LITERARY DEVICES

**Review Quiz**

FURTHER STUDY

Take a Study Break



QUIZ: Is This a Taylor Swift Lyric or a Quote by Edgar Allan Poe?



The 7 Most Embarrassing Proposals in Literature



The 6 Best and Worst TV Show Adaptations of Books



QUIZ: Which Greek God Are You?

Sign up for our latest news
and updates!

By entering your email address you agree to receive emails from SparkNotes and verify that you are over the age of 13. You can view our [Privacy Policy here](#). Unsubscribe from our emails at any time.

First Name

Last Name

Email

Sign Up



SparkNotes—the stress-free way
to a better GPA

Quick Links

- No Fear
- Shakespeare
- Literature
- Guides
- Other
- Subjects
- Blog
- Teacher's Handbook

Premium
Study Tools

- SparkNotes PLUS
- Sign Up
- Log In
- PLUS Help

- More
- Help
 - How to Cite SparkNotes
 - How to Write Literary Analysis
 - About
 - Contact Us

Copyright © 2023 SparkNotes LLC

Terms of Use | Privacy | Cookie Policy | Do Not Sell My Personal Information

